Please amend page 31, line 1 as follows:

~~Claims~~ **What is claimed is:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound comprising a peptidic vector and at least one fluorescein dye,

wherein the peptidic vector comprises the amino acid sequence X_3-G-D, wherein the

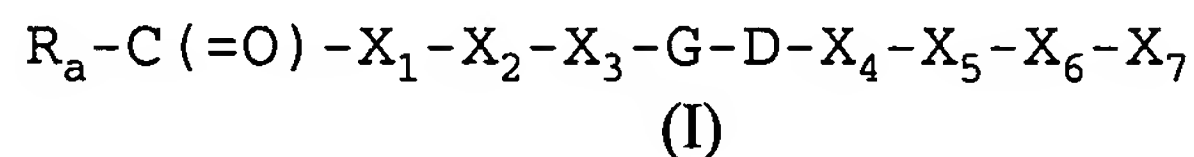peptidic vector and the fluorescein dyes are coupled,

and wherein

X_3 represents arginine, N-methylarginine or an arginine mimetic,

G represents glycine,

D represents aspartic acid,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 given by formula I,

$$R_a-C(=O)-X_1-X_2-X_3-G-D-X_4-X_5-X_6-X_7$$
$$(I)$$

comprising two cyclising bridges,

wherein X_3, G and D are defined as in claim 1, and wherein

R_a represents $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-(CH_2)_n-C_6H_4-$ forming a bridge to either X_2, X_4 or X_6, wherein

n represents a positive integer from 1 to 10, and

X_1 represents a bond or 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 amino acid residues, wherein one amino acid

residue is optionally functionalised with a spacer moiety, or said amino acid residue

possesses a functional side-chain such as an acid or amine group,

X_2 and X_4 represent independently amino acid residues capable of forming a cyclising bridge,

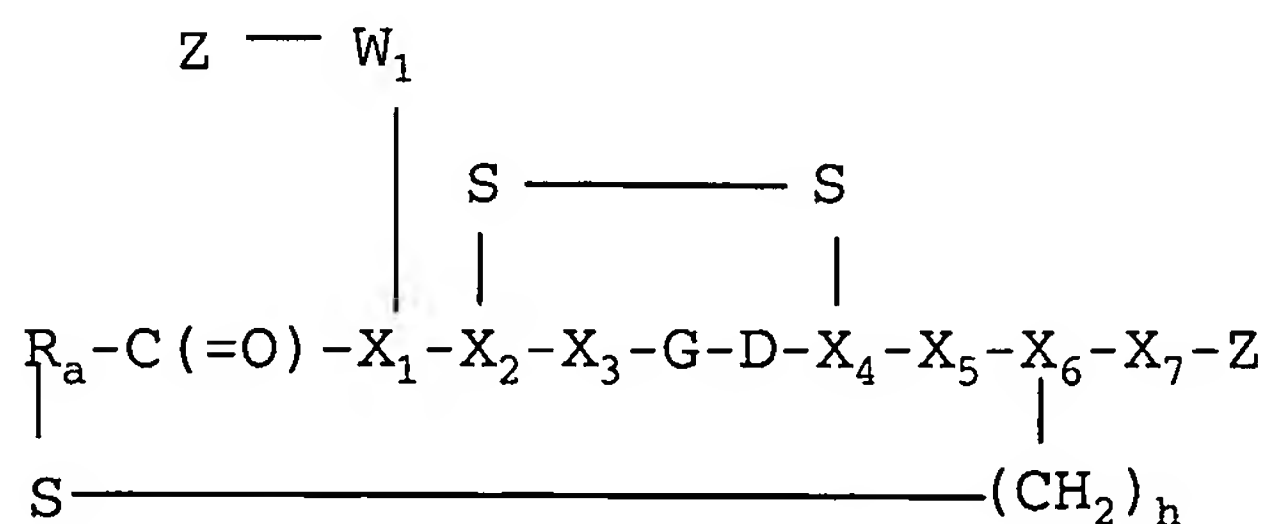X_5 represents a hydrophobic amino acid or derivatives thereof, and

X_6 represents an amino acid residue capable of forming a cyclising bridge, and

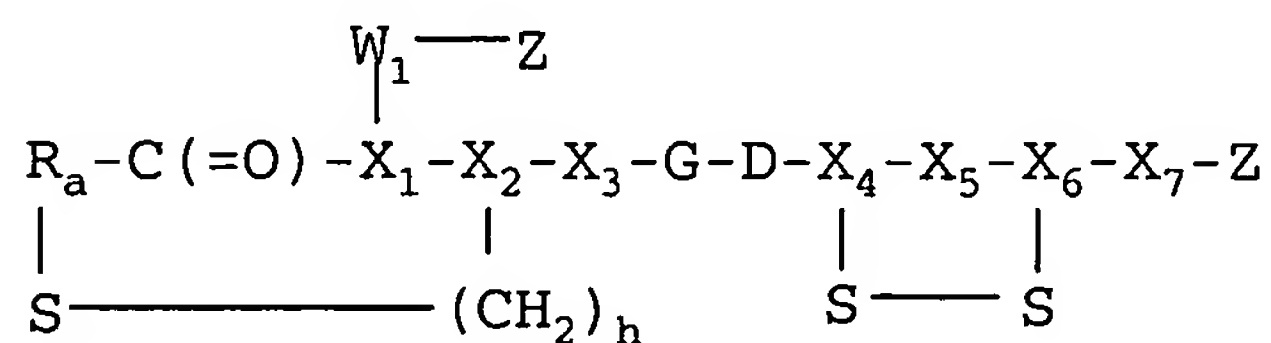X_7 represents a spacer or biomodifier moiety or is absent,

and,

the compound further comprising at least one group Z, representing a fluorescein dye, linked to one or more of the groups X_1, X_6 or X_7 optionally via a spacer group.
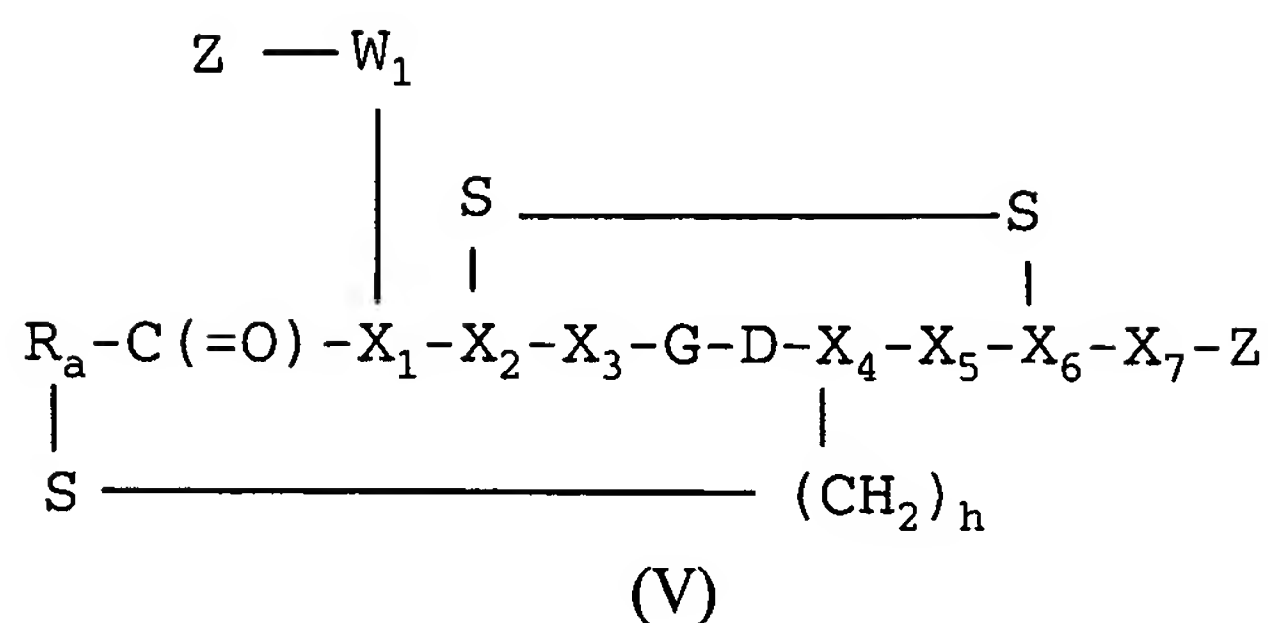
3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 2 selected from one of the formulas;

$$
\begin{array}{c}
Z \!-\! W_1 \\
| \\
\qquad S \!-\!-\!-\! S \\
| \qquad | \qquad\quad | \\
R_a\!-\!C(=O)\!-\!X_1\!-\!X_2\!-\!X_3\!-\!G\!-\!D\!-\!X_4\!-\!X_5\!-\!X_6\!-\!X_7\!-\!Z \\
| \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad | \\
S\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!(CH_2)_h
\end{array}
$$

(III)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
W_1\!-\!Z \\
| \\
R_a\!-\!C(=O)\!-\!X_1\!-\!X_2\!-\!X_3\!-\!G\!-\!D\!-\!X_4\!-\!X_5\!-\!X_6\!-\!X_7\!-\!Z \\
| \qquad\qquad\qquad | \qquad\qquad | \quad\ | \\
S\!-\!-\!-\!(CH_2)_h \qquad S\!-\!S
\end{array}
$$

(IV)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
Z \!-\! W_1 \\
| \\
\quad S \!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\! S \\
| \qquad | \\
R_a\!-\!C(=O)\!-\!X_1\!-\!X_2\!-\!X_3\!-\!G\!-\!D\!-\!X_4\!-\!X_5\!-\!X_6\!-\!X_7\!-\!Z \\
| \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad | \\
S \!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\!\!-\! (CH_2)_h \\
\end{array}
$$

(V)

wherein R_a, X_1, X_3, G, D, X_5, and X_7 are as defined in claims 1 and 2 and wherein

X_2, X_4 and X_6 represent amino acid residues capable of forming a disulphide or a thioether bond,

W_1 is a spacer moiety or is absent,

h is a positive integer 1 or 2,

and wherein at least one of the Z groups is present representing a fluorescein dye.

4. (Original) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein R_a represents -(CH_2)-.

5. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 or 4~~ claim 3 wherein X_1 represents an amino acid residue with a functional side-chain such as an acid or amine group, the amino acid being selected from aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, homolysine or a diaminoalcylic acid or derivatives thereof.

6. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~ claim 3 wherein X_2, X_4 and X_6 independently represent a cysteine or homocysteine residue.

5

7. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 6~~ claim 3 wherein X_3 represents arginine.

8. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 7~~ claim 3 wherein X_5 represents phenylalanine, tyrosine, a 3-iodo-tyrosine or naphthylalanine.

9. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in ~~any of claims 3 to 8~~ claim 3 wherein X_7 comprises 1-10 units of a monodisperse PEG building block or is absent.

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents.

11. (Currently amended) Compounds of ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 for use as an optical imaging contrast agent.

12. (Currently amended) A method of use ~~Use~~ of a compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 in the manufacture of an optical imaging contrast agent for use in a method of diagnosis involving administering said contrast agent to a human or animal body and generating an image of at least part of said body.

13. (Currently amended) A method of generating images of a human or animal body by optical imaging involving administering a contrast agent to said body, and generating an image of at least a part of said body to which said contrast agent has distributed, characterized in that said contrast agent comprises a compound as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.